

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 INT-05 FEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 COME-00

TRSE-00 OPIC-03 AID-05 IGA-02 /048 W

----- 112594

P 031504Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1171

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 11337

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, OAU, OPEC, IV

SUBJ: IVORIAN ATTITUDES ON OPEC PRICE DECISION

REF: ABIDJAN 11309

1. DCM HAD OPPORTUNITY SPEAK INFORMALLY WITH FONOFF DIRECTOR OF CABINET NOUAMA CONCERNING POSSIBLE OPEC DECISION TO RAISE PETROLEUM PRICE. NOUAMA WAS UNUSUALLY FORTHRIGHT, SAYING TEN PERCENT INCREASE WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR INDUSTRIAL NATIONS, DAMAGING FOR IVORY COAST, AND DISASTROUS FOR LESS DEVELOPED AFRICAN NATIONS. HE DISMISSED MINISTER OF PLAN DIAWARA'S SUGGESTION OF SPECIAL PRICE FOR LDC'S AS HOPELESSLY UNWORKABLE. HE ALSO NOTED THAT ARAB JUSTIFICATIONS FOR PRICE INCREASE AT CLUB DE DAKAR SESSION HAD MET WITH STONY SILENCE. DCM MENTIONED THAT SOME NON-PETROLEUM LDC'S HAD SPOKEN OF "NON-ALIGNED SOLIDARITY" IN DISCUSSING POSSIBLE OPEC DECISION. NOUAMA THOUGHT THIS ATTITUDE IDIOTIC. IF THERE WERE EVER AN OCCASION WHEN INTERESTS OF LDC'S AND INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES COINCIDED, NOUAMA SAID THIS WAS IT, AND HE URGED U.S. TO BE AS FIRM AS POSSIBLE. HE NOTED IVORY COAST WAS DOING WELL ECONOMICALLY IN 1976, FOLLOWING SLOW YEAR IN 1975, AND SAID PETROLEUM PRICE INCREASE WOULD OFFSET MUCH OF THIS PROGRESS.

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2. HOWEVER, NOUAMA WAS NOT RPT NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT OAU
POTENTIAL TO INFLUENCE OPEC. HE WAS AWARE OF AMBASSADOR'S
TALK WITH FONMIN USHER (REFTEL) BUT THOUGHT GABON,
NIIGERIA, AND ARAB AFRICAN STATES WOULD NOT BE RECEPTIVE
TO APPROACHES IN OAU CONTEXT. HE EXPRESSED HOPE U.S.
AND EUROPEANS COULD IMPRESS OPEC WITH SERIOUSNESS OF
POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS OF PRICE INCREASE, AND SAID IVORY
COAST WOULD DO WHAT IT COULD IN OAU. USHER IS OFF TO
KINSHASA TODAY, DECEMBER 3.
STEARNS

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Message Attributes

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